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able to witness such ceremonies as the preparation of sahuaro wine and to visit primitive graveyards from which the ordinary traveler is excluded.

The marvelous adaptation of plant and animal life to arid environment is investigated by the author. The cacti are shown to be luscious retainers of moisture. This explains how cattle can roam for months away from water in regions where some varieties of this plant thrive. I remember seeing thirsty Indians on a journey near San Carlos in western Oaxaca rip open one of these cacti and munch the broad flat segments with evident relish. It was my first intimation of the value of the moist sponge-like tissues of which the plant is made.

Facts of economic importance are not only recorded as such but the explorer has also been concerned with their investigation. He dwells especially on irrigation and mining possibilities. A final touch of thoroughness is thus imparted to his conspectus of the region. It is to be hoped that he is not over sanguine regarding occurrences of gold in the Papaguería. I have not examined the district south of Sonoita or the northern part of the Pinacate field, but my attention was called to the region in 1905 on a trip from Cananea to Bacoachi. Reports of prospectors tended to show that some placer mining had been carried on formerly. Mr. Lumholtz probably refers to it when he says that: "free gold which undoubtedly has been encountered in the malpais in the northern part of Pinacate should also be followed up."

The maps are valuable. The corrected course of the Sonoita River, the delineation of the shores of the Bay of Adair and the ascription of names to the N-S ranges of the region are features of interest. The distribution of the sand dunes surrounding Adair Bay is indicated. LEON DOMINIAN.

Field Days in California. By Bradford Torrey. 235 pp. Ills., index. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1913. \$1.50. 7½ x 5.

Bradford Torrey died a year ago and this is the twelfth and the last of his delightful books. He loved the out-of-doors, lived much in the open; and his gift of observation and entertaining way of telling about nature, its birds and beasts, trees and flowers, made his graphic sketches well worth while. His last book is fully worthy of his reputation.

The Different West as Seen by a Transplanted Easterner. By Arthur E. Bostwick. 184 pp. Index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1913. \$1. 8 x 5½.

The "West," as defined by Mr. Bostwick, comprises the states usually designated as the "Middle West." The author writes in detail of this West, taking up the physiography, towns, cities, transportation facilities, life and customs of the people, politics, economics, education, literature, science, art, society, etc. The East is compared with the West, and the "mutual misunderstanding" existing between them is set forth and discussed.

In his chapter on Literature in the West, the author suggests that "There would appear to be a field in the West for the purely local magazine, which is as yet almost untrod. There might be at least one of these in each state, devoted to the description and discussion of local industries, civic improvement, rural conditions, state history and biography, power-development, etc." Mr. Bostwick writes in a bright and interesting style, and his book is well worth reading. WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

A Naval History of the American Revolution. By Gardner W. Allen. Vol. I: xii and 365 pp. Maps, ill. Vol. II: viii and pp. 367-752. Maps, ill., index. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston and New York, 1913. \$3. (2 vols.) 8 x 5½ each.

With painstaking research the author has made the most of his subject, one of peculiar difficulty, since the American revolutionists were always struggling toward a navy rather than in possession of one. The condition was essentially inherent in the nature of the case. An unorganized community struggling to cast off a government organized against it may with minimum difficulty assemble its volunteer levies, but sea power can never be aught but the possession of an organized state; it represents the plant of a going concern, it can-